

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W

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P R 211839Z APR 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9461

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC AO

SUBJECT: AMERICAN MERCENARIES REPORTED CAPTURED IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 093166

1. IN INTERVIEW THIS AFTERNOON ICRC OFFICIAL (HOCKE) SUR-
MISED THAT STATEMENT THAT IT "IMPOSSIBLE" TO OBTAIN INFORMATION
CONCERNING WELFARE OF TWO AMCITS EMANATED FROM ICRC'S TRACER
SERVICE HERE IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY FROM AMERICAN FAMILIES
CONCERNED AND ROUTED THROUGH ARC. IN THIS EVENT, HOCKE EXPLAINED,
INFORMATION PROVIDED WOULD BE CONFINED TO ANY THAT IS ACTUALLY
AVAILABLE TO TRACER SERVICE ON SUBJECT AT THE TIME, WHICH AS OF
NOW IS NIL.

2. IN FACT, HOCKE SAID, THEIR LUANDA REP DID APPROACH
ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ON CASE AND WAS DENIED PERMISSION TO
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VISIT SUBJECTS ON GROUNDS OF THEIR "MERCENARY" RATHER THAN

"POW" STATUS. HOCKE SAID ANGOLANS ADVISED REP "TO BE PATIENT" BUT HE HELD NO SPECIFIC HOPE THAT THIS MIGHT PORTEND FUTURE PERMISSION TO VISIT PRISONERS. ICRC REP WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO VISIT PRISONERS TO EXTENT THAT UNCERTAINTY AND SENSITIVITY OF EXISTING SITUATION IN ANGOLA PERMITTED. HOCKE INFERRED, BUT DID NOT STATE SPECIFICALLY, THAT BITS AND PIECES OF INFORMATION GATHERED ON SCENE AND ELSEWHERE INDICATED PRISONERS PROBABLY IN GOOD CONDITION AS OF NOW.

3. FINALLY HOCKE EMPHASIZED THAT TERM "IMPOSSIBLE" TO OBTAIN INFORMATION RELATED TO PRESENT SITUATION ONLY AND THIS COULD WELL CHANGE AT ANY FUTURE TIME.

4. MISSION CONSIDERS HOCKE'S EXPLANATION PLAUSIBLE AND FEELS THAT INTERVIEW HAD SALUTARY EFFECT OF REGISTERING CONTINUED USG CONCERN OVER CASES, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO ICRC LUANDA REP. (FYI, PROTECT: AT ONE POINT, IN STRESSING INHIBITIONS CREATED FOR ICRC BY "MERCENARY" RATHER THAN "POW" STATUS, HOCKE OBSERVED THAT "MERCENARIES" WERE IN BOTH CAMPS AND THAT AMCITS' PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WAS THAT OF PARTICIPATING ON LOSING SIDE.)
DALE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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